

# Learning Strategies

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## **The focus of this module is on:**

- Language Learning and Communication Strategies
- Metacognitive and Cognitive strategies.

## **Related literature**

Learning strategies have long been in the agenda of the researchers (Stern, 1975; Rubin, 1981; Oxford, 1986; Wenden, 1987; Oxford, 1990; O'Malley and Chamot 1990; Oxford, 1994; El-Dinary and Rubins 1996, Chamot et al, 1999; Cohen, 2003).

## **The most common category of Learning Strategies**

- Cognitive
- Metacognitive
- Social and Affective
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## **What happens to students when they become strategic?**

- Students trust their minds.
- Students know there's more than one right way to do things.
- They acknowledge their mistakes and try to rectify them.
- They evaluate their products and behavior.
- Memories are enhanced.
- Learning increases.
- Self-esteem increases.
- Students feel a sense of power.
- Students become more responsible.
- Work completion and accuracy improve.
- Students develop and use a personal study process.
- They know how to "try."
- On-task time increases; students are more "engaged."
- Most importantly they are more motivated.

## **Language learning strategies can be taught; they are not innate.**

- Both students and teachers must believe that success or failure in language learning is the use of effective strategies, not luck or innate ability alone.
- Low achieving students in language classes cannot be changed, but they can gain appropriate language learning strategies
- The teacher's role is to consciously build strategy training into the lessons to help students develop their own strategies.
- Teachers need to learn about their students' backgrounds, identify student problems, and find out what strategies learners are currently using. by informally talking with the students, interviewing them, or having formal consultations.
- They then need to help students figure out which strategies might work best for them.
- When students become more adept at identifying and applying strategies for themselves, they become better self-teachers.

## **“Give a man a fish and feed him for a day; teach a man to fish feed him for a lifetime”**

- As The Chinese proverb illustrates teachers must believe that their students are capable of becoming more independent learners.
- This requires that teachers be willing to give up some control over learning so that students can take more control.
- In order to take control over their learning students need to be independent learners.

## **What are the basic steps in teaching strategy use?**

- Describe the strategy.
- Model its use.
- Provide ample assisted practice time.
- Promote student self-monitoring and evaluation of personal strategy use.
- Encourage continued use and generalization of the strategy.

## **Listening Activities**

**Language Level:** Intermediate

**Aim:** Students will be able to practice such language learning strategies as “goal setting, directed attention, selectively attention, activate background knowledge, making inferences, cooperation” and so on by practicing a listening activity.

### **Before Listening**

Teacher triggers students’ background knowledge with such questions as;

“How do we express our past actions, especially habits?”

“Please, remember what you have learnt in grammar course.”

“Yes, we use past from of the verbs and for the past habits ‘used to’ and ‘would’.”

“We are going to listen to a song. It is about a love affair”

“What happens in a love affair?”

“Yes, a happy ending or a broken romance.”

“While listening and filling in the gaps you will also find out whether the love ends with happiness or it is broken romance.”

“Now, I will deliver the lyrics of a song. Direct your attention to the lyrics.

I will play the song twice. In the first, take you attention to the points we have discussed. In the second listening you will work with your partner to fill in the blanks.”

### **While Listening:**

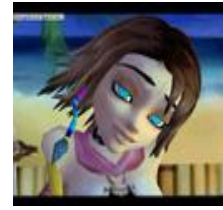
Students work is pairs and try to fill in the blanks while the song is being played.

### **After Listening:**

As soon as the song is finished, pairs check their answers. Once the gaps are filled with appropriate words with peer correction, the song is played again with the visual supports of power presentation. The students checks their answers on the image reflected.

The teacher, then, asks some questions about the song.

- What is the theme of the song?
- Who is involved?
- Where did they use to meet?
- What did they use to do in the tavern?
- Do they deal with the same things now?
- What kinds of changes did they have in their lives?



### THOSE WERE THE DAYS / Mary Hopkin

Once upon a time there .....(1) a tavern  
Where we .....(2) to raise a glass or two  
Remember how we .....(3) away the hours  
And dreamed of all the great things we .....(4) do  
Those .....(5) the days my friend  
We .....(6) they'd never end  
.....(7) sing and dance forever and a day  
.....(8) live the life we choose  
.....(9) fight and never lose  
For we .....(10) young and sure to have our way.  
La la la la..  
Then the busy years .....(11) rushing by us  
We ..... (12) our starry notions on the way  
If by chance .....(13) see you in the tavern  
..... (14) smile at one another and .....(15) say  
Those .....(16) the days my friend  
We .....(17) they'd never end  
We.....(18) sing and dance forever and a day  
We.....(19) live the life we choose  
.....(20) fight and never lose  
Those .....(21) the days, oh yes those .....(22) the days  
La la la la..  
Those .....(23)the days, oh yes those .....(24) the days  
Just tonight I ..... (25) before the tavern  
Nothing .....(26) the way it used to be  
In the glass I .....(27) a strange reflection  
.....(28) that lonely woman really me?  
Those .....(28) the days my friend  
We .....(29). they'd never end  
We.....(30) sing and dance forever and a day  
We.....(31) live the life we choose  
We.....(32) fight and never lose  
La la la la..  
Those .....(33) the days, oh yes those .....(34) the days  
Through the door there .....(35) familiar laughter  
I .....(36) your face and .....(37) you call my name  
Oh my friend we're older but no wiser  
For in our hearts the dreams are still the same  
Those .....(38) the days my friend  
We .....(39) they'd never end  
We.....(40) sing and dance forever and a day  
We .....(41) live the life we choose  
We.....(42) fight and never lose  
Those ..... (44) the days, oh yes those .....(45) the days  
La la la la..

# MARY HOPKIN



THOSE WERE THE DAYS - 25/09/1968

6 weeks at #1 - 21 weeks on chart

Once upon a time there was a tavern  
Where we used to raise a glass or two  
Remember how we laughed away the hours  
And dreamed of all the great things we would do

Those were the days my friend  
We thought they'd never end  
We'd sing and dance forever and a day  
We'd live the life we choose  
We'd fight and never lose  
For we were young and sure to have our way

La la la la la la  
La la la la la la  
La la la la, la la la la la la

Then the busy years went rushing by us  
We lost our starry notions on the way  
If by chance I'd see you in the tavern  
We'd smile at one another and we'd say

Those were the days my friend  
We thought they'd never end  
We'd sing and dance forever and a day  
We'd live the life we choose  
We'd fight and never lose

La la la la la la  
La la la la la la  
La la la la, la la la la la la

Just tonight I stood before the tavern  
Nothing seemed the way it used to be  
In the glass I saw a strange reflection  
Was that lonely woman really me

Those were the days my friend

We thought they'd never end  
We'd sing and dance forever and a day  
We'd live the life we choose  
We'd fight and never lose  
Those were the days, oh yes those were the days

La la la la la la  
La la la la la la  
La la la la, la la la la la la la

La la la la la la  
La la la la la la  
La la la la, la la la la la la la

Through the door there came familiar laughter  
I saw your face and heard you call my name  
Oh my friend we're older but no wiser  
For in our hearts the dreams are still the same

Those were the days my friend  
We thought they'd never end  
We'd sing and dance forever and a day  
We'd live the life we choose  
We'd fight and never lose  
Those were the days, oh yes those were the days

La la la la la la  
La la la la la la  
La la la la, la la la la la la la